

Similar to the highly successful Department of Justice Community Oriented Policing Services—COPS—and the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Programs, the First Responder Grants will be made directly to State and local government units for overtime, equipment, training, and facility expenses to support our law enforcement officers, firefighters, and emergency personnel.

The First Responder Grants may be used to pay up to 90 percent of the cost of the overtime, equipment, training, or facility. In cases of fiscal leadership, the Department of Homeland Security may waive the local match requirement of 10 percent to provide Federal funds for communities that cannot afford the local match.

In a world shaped by the violent events of September 11, day after day we call upon our public safety officers to remain vigilant. We not only ask them to put their lives at risk in the line of duty, but also, if need be, give their lives to protect us.

If we take time to listen to our Nation's State and local public safety partners, they will tell us that they welcome the challenge to join in our national mission to protect our homeland security. But we cannot ask our firefighters, emergency personnel, and law enforcement officers to assume these new national responsibilities without also providing new Federal support.

The First Responders Partnership Grant Act will provide the necessary Federal support for our State and public safety officers to serve as full partners in the fight to protect our homeland security. We need our first responders for the security and the life-saving help they bring to our communities. All they ask is for the tools they need to do their jobs for us. And for the sake of our own security, that is not too much to ask.

I commend Senator DASCHLE for his leadership, and hope that the Senate will soon consider this desperately needed economic stimulus package.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. In the last Congress Senator KENNEDY and I introduced the Local Law Enforcement Act, a bill that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred July 22, 2001 in Pleasanton, CA. Two men assaulted an Afghani cab driver in an incident that police labeled a hate crime. The two attackers, Kenny Loveless and Travis Gossage, both 21, yelled racial epithets at the cab driver during their ride. Upon getting out of the cab they struck the outside of the cab. When the driver got out to inspect the cab the

two men attacked the driver and continued to yell racial slurs.

I believe that Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

THE MEASURE OF SUCCESS: CELEBRATING A LEGACY OF AFRICAN AMERICAN ACHIEVEMENT

Ms. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, "Success is to be measured not so much by the position one has reached in life, as by the obstacles which he has overcome while trying to succeed." This statement, made over 100 years ago by Booker T. Washington, rings true today.

Twenty-seven years ago, February was designated "Black History Month." Today, I am pleased to join in the celebration of the many achievements and contributions African Americans have made to our history. I encourage all of you to celebrate this rich history of achievement year-round.

America's history has been shaped by the courage, talent, and ingenuity of African-Americans. Each February we rediscover familiar stories of those who triumphed over bigotry and hatred to help move our Nation closer to living up to its greatest potential. In the lives of Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, Rosa Parks, and Thurgood Marshall we find heroes who dedicated their lives to liberty, freedom, and equality. During this month we also celebrate the achievements and vision of civil rights leaders such as Martin Luther King, Jr. and Medgar Evers and are reminded that we must continue the important work they started.

A look through our own State's history reveals a rich portrait of African American achievement in California.

In science, George Edward Alcorn, Jr. is a brilliant physicist and inventor who has made considerable contributions to semiconductor technology and other scientific fields. He graduated from Occidental College in Los Angeles with a B.A. in Physics, and received an M.S. and Ph.D. in Nuclear, Atomic and Molecular Physics from Howard University. He has been issued more than 25 patents for his groundbreaking work and is most well-known for inventing the Imaging X-ray Spectrometer used for detecting life on other planets.

Dr. Alcorn has also been extensively involved in community service. He was awarded a NASA-EEO medal for his contributions in recruiting minority and women scientists and engineers and for his assistance to minority businesses in establishing research programs. He is a founder of Saturday Academy, which is a weekend honors program designed to supplement and extend math-science training for inner-city students in grades 6 to 8.

Mae Jemison, an African American physician, scientist and engineer, was the first woman of color to go into space more than 10 years ago. Dr. Jemison was only 16 when she entered Stanford University; she graduated in 1977 at age 20 with degrees in both chemical engineering and African American studies. A few years later, she received a medical degree from Cornell University. Dr. Jemison was selected by NASA in 1988 for Astronaut training and in 1992 became a mission specialist aboard the space shuttle Endeavor.

Throughout her career, Dr. Jemison remained undaunted by the lack of role models in her area of expertise and instead paved the way as a hero for women and minorities interested in the science and technology fields. She once said, "I saw a world that was changing and I wanted to be a part of that."

Last year, she was honored by the Mentoring Center in Oakland during a ceremony where she stressed the need for caring adults to reach out for young people in these troubled times. Just recently, Dr. Jemison encouraged a young audience at the Modesto Community College to shoot for the stars and realize their capacity to dream. She said, "We have to have a vision of what we want the world to be in the future. We must combine lessons from the past with our responsibility for the present. It's the only way to have hope for the future."

Politics: African Americans in the political arena have worked tirelessly to advance the civil rights of all people in California. Largely as a result of their efforts, African Americans are well represented in California local, State and Federal Governments.

Below is a short list of other African-American Californians who have made similar contributions to our State and communities across the Nation:

Yvonne Brathwaite Burke was the first black woman to be elected to the California General Assembly and the first to be elected to represent California in the United States Congress.

Congressman Ronald V. Dellums was elected to Congress in 1970. He was the first African-American to serve on the Armed Services Committee and was its first black chairman.

Herb J. Wesson, Jr. is only the second African American in California history to be elected the 65th Speaker of the California State Assembly, one of the most powerful positions in the State. As a student at Lincoln University, a historically black college, Mr. Wesson was inspired to pursue a political career while listening to a speech by then Congressman Ron Dellums of California.

During his career, Mr. Wesson has introduced bills that protected labor rights for immigrant workers, ensured pay equity across gender lines, increased funding for low performing schools, and promoted job training for at-risk teens. He has earned a reputation as a natural born leader, mediator